

**VHA PROSTHETIC CLINICAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (PCMP)  
CLINICAL PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR AUDIBLE PRESCRIPTION READING DEVICES**

**I. POLICY**

The purpose of this document is to assist practitioners in clinical decision-making, standardize and improve the quality of patient care, and promote veterans' functional independence in relation to audible prescription reading devices (APRD).

**II. BACKGROUND**

VHA's Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service Strategic Healthcare Group was directed by the Under Secretary for Health to establish a Prosthetic Clinical Management Program (PCMP). The objectives are to coordinate the development of clinical practice recommendations for prosthetic devices and contracting opportunities to assure technology uniformity and ease of access to prosthetic prescriptions and patient care that will lead to valid outcome measures and analysis for research purposes.

A workgroup with input from selected clinicians and consumers was formed to develop clinical practice recommendations for the use, training and issuance of APRD. These devices are designed to provide auditory feedback for patients with visual, cognitive, and/or reading/language barriers.

A veteran who can benefit from the APRD should be identified by the primary health care team, appropriate specialty health care provider, or Visual Impairment Services Team (VIST) Coordinator. The primary health care team should coordinate and initiate the assessment and evaluation. Training will be provided by nurse educators or their designee. There must be documentation about the justification for, and evidence of, appropriate patient training in the uses of these devices to meet VHA outcome measures.

**III. CLINICAL PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS**

**A. General Recommendations**

1. Had a stated goal(s) that required the use of an APRD.
2. Expressed an interest in using the device to accomplish the goal(s).
3. Demonstrated the ability to independently and safely use the device

to effectively meet the stated goal(s).

- a. Prior to issuing a specific APRD, the veteran should have the opportunity to evaluate other appropriate visual and non-visual devices to accomplish the stated goal(s).
- b. The device must prove to be the most efficient and effective means of meeting the goal.
- c. Prior to enrollment in the APRD program, evaluations will be conducted by appropriate consultative clinical services identified by the primary health care team that may impact successful training with the device (Attachment).

## **B. Specific Recommendations**

The general purpose of these devices is to improve the independent and safe use of prescription medications by veterans with visual and other functional or cognitive impairments to better manage medical health care conditions.

1. General guidelines for consideration should be:
  - a. Ability to use and operate appropriate functions of the device.
  - b. Ability to hear, and demonstrate comprehension of the recorded message.
  - c. All veterans must have initial instruction and training with these devices.

## **C. VHA Outcomes Measures**

1. Veteran-specific abilities:

At the conclusion of training, the veteran must be able to demonstrate the ability to independently and safely operate the APRD to achieve the stated goal(s). VHA outcome measures for the use of this device by veterans may include the ability to:

- a. Identify, operate and effectively utilize the basic features of the device to follow auditory instructions.
- b. Clean, care for, maintain and trouble-shoot the device.

- c. Understand the potential uses of the device, and when the device will be ineffectual or inappropriate.
- d. Safely and efficiently utilize the device for its intended use.
- e. Demonstrate a level of safety and skill with the device.

2. Rehabilitation-specific capabilities:

At the conclusion of training, the veteran must be able to demonstrate improved quality of life through the development of skills and capabilities needed for the independent and safe use of prescription medications to better manage medical health care conditions. VHA outcomes measures may include the following areas, as applicable:

- a. Living skills
- b. Communication skills
- c. Activities of Daily Living
- d. Independent Living
- e. Adjustment to blindness and/or significant visual, cognitive or other functional impairment

**NOTE: The VHA Outcome Measures are arrived at through both objective and subjective means. Current research dictates the particular measurement tools or measures utilized.**

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Acting Under Secretary for Health  
Date: 8-16-04

## **ATTACHMENT**

### **CONSULTATIVE CLINICAL SERVICES**

Consultative clinical services that may be requested by the primary health care team prior to Audible Prescription Reading Devices (APRD) program enrollment of veterans may include, but are not limited to:

1. Audiology
2. Geriatrics
3. GRECC
4. Mental Health
5. Neurology
6. Neuropsychology
7. Optometry
8. Ophthalmology
9. Psychology
10. Psychiatry
11. Pharmacy